# **APPENDIX A**

#### STATE OF MINNESOTA

# **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

In the Matter of Invenergy's Application for a Site Permit for the Cannon Falls Energy Center plant.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING DECISION EQB Docket No. 04-85-PPS-Cannon Falls EC

The above-entitled matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared on the proposed Cannon Falls Energy Center plant.

The EQB held a public meeting on September 22, 2004, to discuss the project with the public and to solicit input into the scope of the EA to be prepared. The public was given until September 30 to submit written comments regarding the scope of the EA.

Having consulted with the EQB staff, I hereby make the following Scoping Order.

#### MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The EA on the Cannon Falls Energy Center plant project will address the following matters:

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION (A brief overview of the process and identification of what is discussed in the document)
  - 1.1 Purpose and Need
  - 1.2 Regulatory requirements
- 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION (The following specific features of the proposed power plant as proposed by the applicant will be described)
  - 2.1 General
  - 2.2 Description of Power Generating Equipment and Processes
  - 2.3 Air Emission Control Equipment
  - 2.4 Water Use
  - 2.5 Wastewater
  - 2.6 Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
  - 2.7 Fuel Supply
  - 2.8 Construction
  - 2.9 Electrical Interconnection
  - 2.10 Pipeline
- 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (A brief description of the preferred site)

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED LEPGP (This section will describe the potential environmental effects of locating the project on the site proposed by the applicant)

4.1 Air Quality

Potential to Emit

Criteria Pollutants

Hazardous Air Pollutants

Air Emissions Risk Assessment

4.2 Biological Resources

Flora

Fauna

Rare & Unique Natural resources

- 4.3 Cultural, Archeological and Historic Resources
- 4.4 Geology and Soils
- 4.5 Health and Safety
- 4.6 Land Use

Zoning

Displacement

Aesthetics & Visual Impacts

Recreation Areas

4.7 Noise

Project Noise

Noise Standards

Current Noise Environment

- 4.8 Socioeconomics
- 4.9 Transportation
- 4.10 Water Resources

Surface Water

Groundwater

Wetlands

4.11 Waste Management and Disposal

Wastewater

Solid Waste

Hazardous Waste

- 5.0 PERMITS (A list of all permits that will be required by the applicant to construct the project will be included)
- 6.0 ANALYSIS OF MITIGATIVE MEASURES (Any specific measures for mitigating potential environmental or human impacts of the proposed power plant will be described)
- 7.0 ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS and DEFINITIONS

#### ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EA

The EQB will not, as part of this environmental review, consider the following matter:

- 1. Whether a different size or different type of power plant should be built.
- 2. The no-build option.
- 3. Any alternative sites for the proposed plant.

# **IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS**

The EA will include a list of permits that will be required for the applicant to construct this project.

# **SCHEDULE**

The EA will be completed by November 15, 2004.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair



Goodhue County Assessor/Auditor/Treasurer

509 W. Fifth St., Room 208 Red Wing, MN 55066 (651) 385-3006

Fax -- (651) 385-3007

September 27, 2004

Mr. Bill Storm
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Room 300
658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Storm,

As the Goodhue County Auditor/Treasurer, I am submitting to you my concerns/comments regarding the proposed Invenergy electric peak plant in Cannon Falls. The company has requested an exemption (special legislation is required) for the personal property/machinery value of the plant, which is roughly 90% of the estimated tax under normal procedures. The company has claimed it cannot operate with the \$3,000,000 estimated tax bill it would have under normal statutory taxation, though they have not provided any financial documents nor a substantive "but for" argument. Normal tax incentive benefits are not applicable in this situation. The "in lieu" of payments offered would be one-sixth of the tax estimate, but would be sufficient revenue for the city of Cannon Falls to interest the city.

From the County standpoint, my concerns are that by supporting Invenergy's partial exemption, we are opening the door for a similar argument by other utilities, particularly XCEL Energy. For ten years, the County has fought a battle to retain XCEL's tax base. In 1994, utilities amounted to 48% of the County base; currently utilities comprise only 18% of the base (please see attached graph). The decrease occurred through legislative tax rate compression, Tax Court, pollution control exemptions, and Department of Revenue rule change. The Prairie Island nuclear plant now pays \$11 million less in total tax than in 1994. These taxes have shifted to other taxpayers, primarily residential and agricultural. We have heard the argument for removing the personal property/machinery tax from XCEL and other utilities before and do not believe that regulated industries with assigned/captive service areas require it. The promised competition of deregulation has not occurred.

The only legitimate argument we see with the Invenergy peak plant receiving a different taxation scheme is that the plant only operates 5-20% of the time as compared to a baseload plant such as Prairie Island. However, the County cannot afford to lose more

utility tax dollars, and I am very cautious about supporting a personal property/machinery exemption for one facility when I must oppose it for another. I am also unclear whether we are guaranteed that the plant would remain fired by natural gas and never be converted to coal or other less acceptable fuel alternatives.

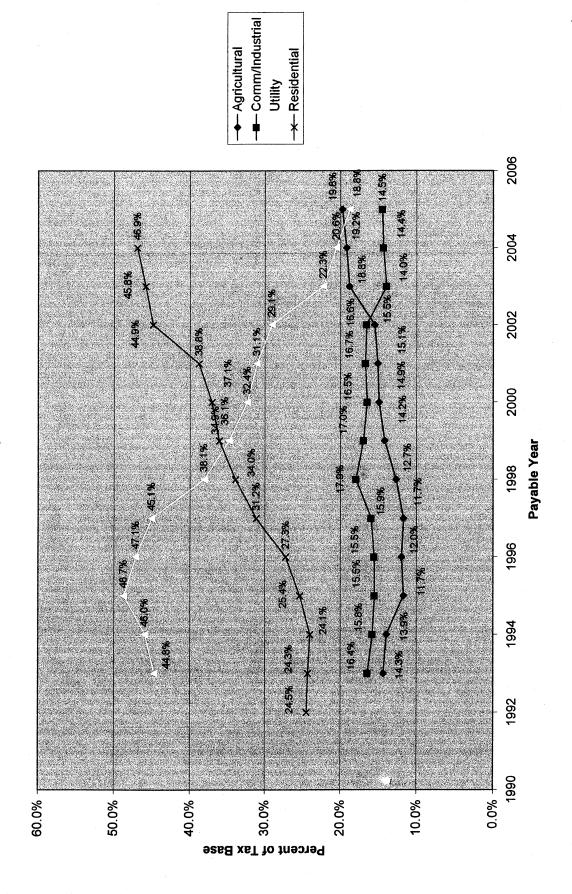
Sincerely,

Brad Johnson

Goodhue County Auditor/Treasurer/Assessor

Cc: Goodhue County Board Cannon Falls City

**Goodhue County Tax Base Shifts** 



# The Minnesota Project

Strong Local Economies, Vibrant Communities, and a Healthy Environment

1026 North Washington •New Ulm, Minneosta 56073 • 507-354-4780

October 1, 2004

Bill Storm Energy Facility Permitting Minnesota Environmental Quality Board 658 Cedar St., Room 300 St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Invenergy Environmental Assessment EQB Docket 04-85-PPS-Cannon Falls EC

Dear Mr. Storm:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Assessment of the Invenergy gas fired power plant. The Minnesota Project would like to respectfully offer the following comments.

The State of Minnesota has established numerous policies and statutes, which create a broad framework setting for the priority for a steady expansion of renewable energy resources in the State. Based on this over all statutory framework, it is necessary for the EA to consider reasonable renewable alternatives to the proposed fuels for the project. The EA should consider the use of biofuels or fuel oil blended with biofuels in lieu of fuel oil as a back up fuel. Specifically, the EA should consider a back up fuel blended with 20%, 5% and 2% biodiesel respectively.

In the recently completed Mankato Energy Center Large Electric Generating Power Plant Docket that was heard before the PUC and the EQB, the Minnesota Project and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association introduced substantial information about the viability and applicability of biodiesel blended with fuel oil for use in combustion turbines. The record established in that proceeding established that there are minimal economic or technical barriers to using biodiesel in a combustion turbine. The testimony of Calpine's project manager stated, "there do not appear to be any technical reasons that biodiesel cannot be used in such application in blended form." (Direct Testimony of Kent J. Morton on Behalf of Mankato Energy Center, LLC, OAH Docket No. 6-2500-15869 – EQB Docket No. 04-76-PPS-Calpine, page 33). The EQB needs to continue to look at the most reasonable renewable alternatives that can be applied to this power plant.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please advise me if there is additional information that you may need for assessing the biodiesel alternatives.

Sincerely,

Mark Lindquist Energy Policy Specialist

# **Bill Storm**

From: Dick and Jane Peterson [janerichard.peterson@mchsi.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2004 3:20 PM

To: Bill.Storm@state.mn.us

Subject: Cannon Falls proposed electric plant

Bill, You may not be the appropriate person to receive this comment, but I am deeply troubled by giving a property tax break to a business to make it more feasible to proceed. I am the chair of the Cannon Falls school board, and the small amount of money from this project that the school district would get is quite unfair. Schools have had a very difficult time as it is with the state taking over general fund resources without us giving more breaks to businesses. Thank you for this chance to comment on the project. Sincerely, Dick Peterson

#### **Bill Storm**

From: Sent:

Mike & LeAnn Thorburn [supertho@rconnect.com]

Thursday, September 30, 2004 2:26 PM

To: Cc:

Bill.Storm@state.mn.us supertho@rconnect.com

Subject:

Invenergy project

LeAnn Thorburn

supertho@rconnect.com

Mr. storm,

I've just been reading about the "Invenergy facility" in our local paper. Am I reading this correctly? We would be giving up 55 acres of agriculture to install something that is going to substantially change the rural landscape for all residents and passers-by alike? And give up practically all the potential tax benefits to our community and state for that amount of land? Not to mention the amount of land eaten up by the easements for the pipe that will bring in the natural gas. And all this for something that will be used a total of between one week to one month out of each year? (oh, yes there was something about fuel oil too; so, the pipe line, and the land devoted to it, won't necessarily be used for some of that already short amount of time...how much waste is that?) Is this whole project actually being considered??!??

I also get the impression that Invenergy isn't particularly concerned about the good of the community that it is using for it's gains. Perhaps the EQB should be educating and encouraging more Minnesota farmers to consider becoming involved in less-invasive and cleaner wind power; and keep the proceeds more within our state and communities.

Sincerely, LeAnn Thorburn - rural cannon falls

# **APPENDIX B**

Remarks WETLAND HYGROLOGY INDICATORS: Depth to Saturated Soil Depth to Free Water in Pir FIELD OBSERVATIONS: No Recorded Data Available Depth of Surface Water Aerial Photographs Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge RECORDED DATA (Describe in Remarks) ASOTOBOLAN Remarks. FACW or FAC (excluding FACU) Percent of Dorninant Species that are OBL, Dominant Plant Species is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation?) NEGETATION Is the area a potential Problem Area? Do Normal Circumstances exist on this site? Investigator Bic Applicant/Owner: Project/Site (MANNON) For C. S. mand who COLEGE VICE CANA OF STOWE Brain Jan 9. 4 llin EXCAUATED FIT 4-6 dup S125 & word 80, x80, 26345157 BOOK MATURA つぶり/00ペイケ とうしゃったからい <u>[</u>(3) Indicator Dominant Plant Species Ē <u>(E)</u> ENE #10. E Other (Explain in Remarks) ☐: Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Local Soil Survey Data ☐ Water Stained Leaves Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches CI FAC-Neutral Test SECONDARY INDICATORS (2 or more required): Sediment Deposits Drift Lines □ Water Marks Saturated in Upper 12 Inches Inundated PRIMARY INDICATORS 5 4 ಪ ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION 1987 COE Wetlands Determination Manual EXCIPATION - NOT Yes Yes Top of back Plot ID: County Good Muse Community ID: State MAN Date: 6:30-4 Transect ID who were the deal Stratum AREN TAKES TCT

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# **APPENDIX C**



# MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

July 20, 2004

Ms. Julie Spapperi URS Corporation One Continental Towers 1701 Golf Road, Suite 100 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

RE:

Proposed Cannon Falls Energy Center

T112 R17 S6 NW, Cannon Falls, Goodhue County

SHPO Number: 2004-2589

Dear Ms. Spapperi:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

Please contact Dennis Gimmestad at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40\_

Phone: (651) 296-7863 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

July 6, 2004

Julie Spapperi URS Corporation 122 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60603

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Cannon Falls Energy Center, T112N R17W Section 6, Goodhue County NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20040948

Dear Ms. Spapperi,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 6 known occurrences of rare species or natural communities in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). However, based on the nature and location of the proposed project I do not believe it will affect any known occurrences of rare features.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, natural communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Goodhue County. Our information about natural communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

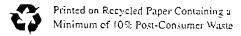
The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The <u>index</u> provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. Copyright notice for the index should include the following disclaimer:

"Copyright (year) State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. This index may be reprinted, unaltered, in Environmental Assessment Worksheets, municipal natural resource plans, and internal reports. For any other use, written permission is required."

The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on rare natural features. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other wildlife-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Shannon Fisher, at (507) 359-6073.

An invoice for the work completed will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for map and database search and staff scientist review. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Sarah D. Hoffmann

Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results

Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields

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CAMMON FALLS. ENERGY CENTER

THR

RECORDS PRINTED

### FROM THE DESK OF:

# GARY J. WEGE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE TWIN CITIES FIELD OFFICE, 4101 E. 80TH STREET BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 55425-1665

COMM. 612/725-3548, ext. 207 FAX 612/725-3609 Gary\_Wege@fws.gov

DATE: 7-21-04

PAGE: I of I

PHONE: 847-228-1115

TO: Julie Spapperi, URS, Rolling Meadows, IL

SUBJECT: Cannon Falls Energy Center, Goodhue County, MN, (T112N, R17W, S6)

#### Dear Julie:

This responds to your letter dated June 18, 2004, requesting information on federally threatened and endangered species for the above referenced project.

There are currently no federally endangered or threatened species known to occur at the specific locations identified in your letter and accompanying materials. Consequently, we concur with your determination that the proposed project will not affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. However, if the project is modified or new information becomes available which indicates that listed species may occur in the affected area, consultation with this office should be reinitiated.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have questions regarding our comments, please call me at (612) 725-3548, extension 207.

Gary J. Wege Fish & Wildlife Biologist

FWS ID # 10801